

## Message Text

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60

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 RSR-01 DPW-01 EUR-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00

L-02 /066 W

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R 250105Z JUL 73 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5055

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13392

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR3 SITREP-23 JULY 73

FOLLOWING SENT SAIGON ACTION JULY 23 INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP THAI-

LAND REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 317

1. MR3 G2 REPORTS 64 MILITARY CLASHES DURING 72 HOUR PERIOD  
ENDING 0800 JULY 73, A DECLINE IN MILITARY ACTIVITY. OF THESE  
20 WERE IN FIRST 24 HOUR PERIOD, 27 IN SECOND, AND 17 IN FINAL  
PERIOD, BUT THE INTENSITY OF THE FIGHTING DROPPED OFF IN THE  
LAST TWO PERIODS. THERE WERE 14 GROUND ATTACKS, 28 ATTACKS  
BY FIRE (ONLY THREE OVER 20 ROUNDS), TWO COMBINED GROUND AND  
FIRE ATTACKS, ONE FIRING AT AIRCRAFT, TWO SMALL ARMS HARASS-  
MENTS, ONE LOC INTERDICTION, AND 16 MINE OR GRENADE DETONATIONS.  
GVN LOSSES INCLUDED 12 KILLED (THREE CIVILIANS), 59 WOUNDED  
(SIX CIVILIANS), ONE M-16 LOST, THREE TRUCKS DESTROYED, AND ONE  
COMMERCIAL AIR VIET-NAM AIRPLANE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED ON THE GROUND  
AT PHUOC BINH AIR FIELD BY COMMUNIST ROCKET FIRE. COMMUNIST  
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LOSSES REPORTED WERE 18 KIA, ONE WOUNDED, A QUANTITY OF WEAPONS

AND EQUIPMENT,

AND SEVEN RALLIERS. OF THE 64 INCIDENTS,

BINH DUONG HAD 16, BINH LONG 13, PHUOC LONG NINE, HAU NGHIA AND LONG AN SEVEN EACH, PHUOC TUY FOUR LONG KHANH, BINH TUY, AND TAY NINH TWO EACH, AND BIEN HOA AND GIA DINH ONE EACH.

2. COMMUNISTS CONTINUE TO BLOCK INTERPROVINCIAL ROUTE 1-A BOTH ABOVE AND BELOW PHU GIAO DISTRICT TOWN IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, AND TO SHELL PHUOC BINH AIRFIELD, IN ORDER TO PREVENT ARVN FROM RESUPPLYING TROOPS AND PEOPLE IN PHUOC LONG. IN BINH DUONG, THERE WAS ONLY ONE INCIDENT REPORTED ABOVE PHU GIAO, BUT CONTINUING COMMUNIST ATTACKS ON ELEMENTS OF THE 18TH DIVISION BELOW PHU GIAO, AND SOME SHELLING AND PROBES OF RVNAF ELEMENTS IN BEN CAT-LAI KHE AREA. IN PHUOC LONG, COMMUNIST SHELLING OF AIRFIELD DAMAGED ONE AIR-VIET-NAM AIRCRAFT AND TWO 2-1/2 TON TRUCKS ON THE GROUND, AND THERE WERE FIVE COMMUNIST CONTACTS WITH RANGERS HOLDING OPEN NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14. MOST OF 13 CLASHES IN BINH LONG PROVINCE WERE SHELLINGS OF CHON THANH SUB-SECTOR AND WERE THOUGHT TO BE RELATED TO 1-A FIGHTING. MR3 BRIEFERS MORNING JULY 23 SAID THEY THOUGHT COMMUNISTS INTENDED TO MAKE PHUOC LONG "ANOTHER TONLE CHAM, ON A LARGER SCALE"--I.E. TO CUT IT OFF FROM GVN SUPPORT WITH THE HOPE OF FORCING THE ARMY AND PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE TO WITHDRAW OR ACCEPT COMMUNIST CONTROL.

3. MEANWHILE IN REAL TONLE CHAM, VNAF WAS UNABLE TO LAND ALL LAST WEEK TO CONTINUE ROTATION OF 92ND RANGERS. MR3 CG LTG MINH TOLD CONGEN MORNING JULY 23 THAT BAD WEATHER AND HEAVY COMMUNIST ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE HAD PREVENTED THE EXTRACTIONS, BUT THAT AIRDROP OF SUPPLIES TO TONLE CHAM HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND EXTRACTION ATTEMPTS WILL CONTINUE TONIGHT. MINH SAID TPJMC PRGDEL CHIEF MG TUAN HAD REPLIED TO GVN'S PROPOSAL TO USE TONLE CHAM AS TEST CASE FOR TPJMC TALKS ON ZONES OF CONTROL AND MODALITIES OF STATIONING; TUAN COUNTERPROPOSED MEETING OF LOCAL COMMANDERS IN TONLE CHAM, AND PRESIDENT THIEU REJECTED IT.

4. MINH CONFIRMED REPORT FROM TPJMC V GVNDEL COL. LONG (SEE BIEN HOA 314) THAT GVN HAD REJECTED SITES IN HAU NGHIA AND PHUOC TUY FOR EXCHANGE OF CIVILIAN POW'S. HE SAID HE HAD REJECTED THE SITES, IN DUC HUA AND XUYEN MOC DISTRICTS RESPECTIVELY, BECAUSE HE FELT THE PRG HAD PROPOSED THEM TO ENHANCE THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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CLAIMS TO TERRITORY.

5. AT POLISH NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION AFTERNOON JULY 22, POLES SAID THEY AND HUNGARIANS HAD WITHDRAWN TEMPORARILY FROM AN LOC TEAMSITE. THEY DID NOT GIVE REASON, BUT INDODEL HAS BEEN ABSENT FROM TEAMSITE SINCE LATE JUNE, AND CANADIANS ARE WITHDRAWING, SO PERHAPS COMMUNISTS DIDNT WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE. INDODELS TOLD US MORNING JULY 23 THAT THEY WILL ASSIGN NEW TEAM TO AN LOC FROM NEW TRANCHE NOW ARRIVING FROM INDONESIA.

SIGNED WALKINSHAW  
UNQUOTE MARTIN

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NNN

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